

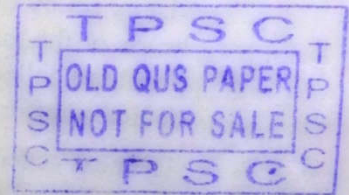
ENGLISH ESSAY AND PRÉCIS WRITING

Time – Three hours

Full Marks – 100

*The figures in the margin indicate full marks for the questions.
Candidates are required to give their answers in their own words as far as practicable.*

1. Write an essay in about 800 words on any *one* of the following : 30
 - (a) Nature's benevolence is fast drying up because of human avarice.
 - (b) Social networking sites : beneficial or harmful ?
 - (c) Fairs and festivals of Tripura.
 - (d) The role of media in protection of human rights.
2. Write a report in about 300 words on any *one* of the following events : 25
 - (a) An awareness programme held on World Aids Day by Tripura State Aids Control Society in collaboration with Indian Red Cross Society, Tripura.
 - (b) A seminar on the elimination of violence against women held in Agartala Press Club.
 - (c) The terrorist attack on the children and educators in an army school in Peshawar on 16th December, 2014.
3. Write a letter in about 200 words to any *one* of the following addresses on the subjects mentioned against them. 20
 - (a) The Editor of an English newspaper about the problems caused to the people by the frequent suspension of flights in Agartala - Kolkata route.
 - (b) The Chairman, Agartala Municipal Corporation complaining of irregularity in the disposal of domestic refuse.
 - (c) The Production Manager, Doordarshan Kendra, Agartala on some shoddy cultural programmes presented by the centre. Suggest improvements.



4. Write a précis on any *one* of the following passages and suggest a suitable title. 20+5=25

- (a) Nations are built by the imagination and untiring enthusiastic efforts of generations. One generation transfers the fruits of its toil to another which then takes forward the mission. As the coming generation also has its dreams and aspirations for the nation's future, it therefore adds something from its side to the national vision which the next generation strives hard to achieve. This process goes on and the nation climbs steps of glory and gains higher strength.

Any organisation, society or even a nation without a vision is like a ship cruising on the high seas without any aim or direction. It is the clarity of national vision which constantly drives the people towards the goal.

Our last generation, the glorious generation of freedom fighters led by Mahatma Gandhi and many others, set for the nation a vision of free India. This was the first vision, set by the people for the nation. It, therefore, went deep into the minds and hearts of the masses and soon became the great inspiring and driving force for the people to collectively plunge into the struggle for freedom movement. The unified dedicated efforts of the people from every walk of life won freedom for the country.

The next generation has put India strongly on the path of economic, agricultural and technological development. But India has stood too long in the line of developing nations. Let us, collectively, set the second national vision of Developed India. It means the major transformation of our national economy to make it one of the largest economies in the world; where the countrymen live well above the poverty-line, their education and health is of a high standard, national security is reasonably assured, and the core competence in certain major areas gets enhanced significantly so that the production of quality goods, including export, rises and brings all round prosperity for the countrymen.

- (b) The habit of reading is one of the greatest resources of mankind ; and we enjoy reading books that belong to us much more than if they are borrowed. A borrowed book is like a guest in the house ; it must be treated with punctiliousness, with a certain considerate formality. You must see that it sustains no damage, it must not suffer while under your roof. You cannot leave it carelessly nor can you mark it, you cannot turn down the pages, you cannot use it familiarly. And then, some day, although this is seldom done, you return it as scheduled. But your own books belong to you; you treat them with that affectionate intimacy that annihilates formality. Books are for use, not for show. You should own no book that you are afraid to mark up, or afraid to place on the table, wide open and face down. A good reason for marking favourite passages in books is that this practice enables you to remember more easily the significant sayings, to refer to them quickly and then in later years

it is like visiting a forest where you once blazed a train. You have the pleasure of going over the old ground and recalling both the intellectual scenery and your own earlier self. Everybody should begin collecting a private library in youth; the instinct of private property which is fundamental in human beings, can here be cultivated with every adventure and no evils. One should have one's own bookshelves, which should not have doors, glass-windows or keys, they should be free and accessible to the hand as well as to the eye. The best of mural decorations is books, they are more varied in colour and appearance than any wall paper, they are more attractive in design and they have the prime advantage of being separate personalities, so that if you sit alone in the room in the firelight you are surrounded with intimate friends. The knowledge that they are there in plain view, is both stimulating and refreshing. You do not have to read them all. Most of my indoor life is spent in a room containing six thousand books : and I have a stock answer to the invariable question that comes from strangers : "Have you read all of these books?" "Yes" I say "and some of them twice." This reply is both true and unexpected..... my devotion to reading has never made me a recluse. But book-friends have this advantage over living friends ; you can enjoy the most aristocratic society in the world whenever you want it. The great dead are beyond our physical reach and the great living are usually almost as inaccessible. As for our personal friends and acquaintances, we cannot always see them. Perchance they are asleep, or may be on a journey. But in a private library you can at any moment converse with Socrates or Shakespeare or Carlyle or Dumas or Dickens or Barrie or Galsworthy. And there is no doubt that in these books you see these men at their best. They wrote for you, you are necessary to them as an audience is to an actor. Only instead of seeing them you look into their inmost heart of hearts.

